

**A relict old forest beetle fauna from Nettlecombe Park in Somerset.** — An afternoon spent in Nettlecombe Park, near Williton in S. Somerset (ST 0537), on 6.vi.1988 produced an excellent variety of deadwood associated beetles. The list included 11 of the species listed in Harding and Rose (1986) as associated with sites where there has been long ecological continuity of deadwood habitats: *Stenichnus bicolor* (Denny), *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.), *Ctesias serra* (F.) *Xestobium rufovillosum* (F.), *Thymalus limbatus* (F.), *Pediacus dermestoides* (F.), *Biphyllus lunatus* (F.), *Mycetophagus atomarius* (F.), *Bitoma crenata* (F.), *Eledona agricola* (Herbst), and *Pseudocistela ceramboides* (L.). The last named is the rarest of these and was reared from a pupa taken from the exposed heartrot of a large split oak. It has been found in Somerset once before, from Wellington (Wilson, 1958). This source also includes the only Somerset records for two further old forest beetles: *Quedius microps* Grav. and *Trichonyx sulcicollis* (Reich.), taken at Nettlecombe during last century. One further rarity was found during my visit: *Soronia punctatissima* (Ill.), which I believe to be new to the county. A dead specimen was taken from spider webs beneath loose bark on an old oak.

Nettlecombe lies on the northern edge of the Brendon Hills, and includes many large old oaks, as well as ash, beech, hawthorn and other species. Its history and old forest lichen communities are described in Rose and Wolseley (1984). It is clearly an important old forest timber site in the context of South-West England, where only Shute Park in S. Devon has produced more than Nettlecombe's 13 species, and it is highly likely that further recording will raise the site to national significance.

I thank Pat Wolseley for encouraging me to visit Nettlecombe and for showing me around. — K.N.A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.

#### REFERENCES

- Harding, P.T. & Rose, F. 1986. *Pasture-woodlands in lowland Britain*. Huntingdon: Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.
- Rose, F. & Wolseley, P. 1984. Nettlecombe Park — its history and its epiphytic lichens: an attempt at correlation. *Field Studies* 6: 117–148.
- Wilson, W.A. 1958. *Coleoptera of Somerset*. Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

#### EDITORIAL APPEAL

For several years, the Society's journal has been excellently indexed by Mr Norman Hall. However, after his long stint, he must now step down and the Editor would like to hear from anyone feeling that they could continue this important task. Access to a computer is rather a necessity, however, over the last few years, Mr Hall has amassed a large data base of the indexed insect names which generally remains similar from year to year. This data base could be transferred to another computer.

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